



Match Report

Opponent: Indiana University of Maryland Baltimore County Date: 01 Oct 05

First Match: Navy 22 UMBC 29

Second Match: Navy 40 UMBC 0

A-Match

The Mids arrived at the University of Maryland Baltimore County pitch eager to avenge the loss to the Colonials of George Washington. The pitch was dry, desolate and perhaps contained more rocks than blades of grass. In fact field conditions were so bad, both teams banded together in a foreign object damage (FOD) walk and removed numerous handfuls of debris. Shortly, after the UMBC kickoff the Retrievers stole the ball 30 meters out and closed on the Navy try zone after some sloppy but effective tosses out to their backs. They scored early on the left side of the Navy tryline despite a staunch defense put up by the Navy forwards, but UMBC did not convert, 5-0 UMBC. After the ensuing kickoff the Mids stole the ball and drove 35 meters using their forwards and threatened from five meters out. After a scrum due to a penalty by UMBC, Navy 8-man Clayton Sears scored by picking and going weak. Adam Young converted to make the score 7-5 USNA. UMBC scored very quickly after the next kickoff as they interrupted a Navy lineout from the Navy 10 meter line, making the score 10-7 with 20 minutes left in the half. After some long runs by the Retrievers up the middle by their backs they put another try in and converted, bringing the score to 17-7 UMBC. After the kickoff fullback Ander Heilles ran the ball strongly up the middle and dished to the forwards who carried the ball from the 22 meter line to the try line and scored via handoff from Sears to hooker David Allen who showed surprising

agility and deftness. As the game advanced the UMBC backs continued to steal the ball effectively in most rucks and mauls, frustrating the Navy offense and thwarting their close attempts at scoring. Within moments of half-time, Navy came close to scoring several times, even bringing the ball into the UMBC tryzone twice only to be held up in try. Halftime score, 17-7 UMBC.



Navy scrumhalf, Richard Brooks exploits a UMBC gap.

The second half saw a maelstrom of offensive activity by UMBC, who scored two tries in the first fifteen minutes of the half after much ebb and flow activity between each teams' 22 meter lines. The Mids had plenty of lineout opportunities but squandered them with poor ball handling—but they kept fighting. With 15 minutes now left in the game the Mids were down 29-12. The Mids were beginning to figure out the Retrievers and began to apply the necessary tactics to get back in the game. The ball worked its way through the Navy backs finding Art Griffin who sprinted nearly 60 meters down the line but ultimately was taken out of bounds. Navy stole the ball on the ensuing UMBC lineout and the ball was advanced by the Navy forwards. After a ruck 30 meters out, Jeremiah McCloud recovered the ball and ran to within 15 meters of try then tossed the ball to his support, outside center Taylor Brashear, who ran the remaining distance for his first try. The points after kick were no good and the Mids were down 29-17. The Mids grew strength in that try and pressed to keep a rally going. Back and forth movement off of penalties between the two embattled sides found the ball at the Retriever's 5 meter line for a Navy lineout. Navy halfback Richard Brooks took advantage of the flat UMBC defense and drove the ball into the tryzone for five more points. Adam Young's kick was good and the score was now 29-22 with less than five minutes remaining. After the kickoff the Mids stoically drove down the pitch in a last ditch effort to even the score, but to no avail. The Navy offense was stuck between the 5 meter line and the UMBC tryline for the last fateful ticks of the match as time was called. Man of the Match was halfback Richard Brooks for his committed leadership and courageous efforts.

B-Match

The Midshipman reserves did not fail to awe the crowd on hand as they trotted onto the pitch like champion greyhounds eager for the

chase. The Navy backs opened up early with a try from freshman 8-man Brendan Noble after just five minutes; the kick was right on target by flyhalf Ethan Berg, score 7-0. After the kick the Mids quickly scored again after supportive rucking and long runs by the forwards and backs, respectively, just 6 minutes later. Hooker David Allen easily put it in for five. Berg's kick was barely wide right, the score now 12-0. Not surprisingly the Navy backs scored again after seamless passing down the line from Berg all the way to wing McCloud who ran 50 meters and broke several tackles. Berg's kick was good making the score 19-0. The halftime whistle sounded shortly thereafter.

After the kickoff to Navy the Midshipman backs were on the hunt and hungry for the try. After some initial gain by the forwards, flyhalf Berg drew in the defense and gently hung the ball in the air for freshman inside center Rucker Culpepper who blew through the Retrievers' midline defense for the try. The kick was good, the score now 26-0. The next fifteen minutes again saw the Mids preying on the UMBC defense as freshman flankers Ian Blamey and Brandon Bocian both put in tries with Berg kicking successfully for each. When the final whistle blew the Midshipman had amassed 40 points to the Retrievers' nil. The second side showed a poised attack and staunch defense in their victory over UMBC's lower side.